

The Birds of Nepal

PART 5

BY

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[Continued from Vol. 58 (2) : 474]

Family MUSCICAPIDAE

Subfamily TURDINAE

***413. *Brachypteryx stellatus stellatus* Gould. Gould's Shortwing.**

Gould's (1868, p. 218) description was based on one of the two specimens obtained by Lieut. Eccles from Nepal, the other specimen was presented to the British Museum. However, both these specimens were stated as coming from Sikkim by Sharpe (1883, p. 31) for reasons best known to him. The only specimen that undoubtedly came from Nepal was taken by Stevens (1925a, p. 356) in the Mai Valley, eastern Nepal, at c. 2135 m. on April 8.

***414. *Brachypteryx leucophrys nipalensis* Horsfield & Moore. Nepal Shortwing.**

The Nepal Shortwing is known from Nepal only from four specimens, two of which (types) were presented by Hodgson to the Museum of the East India Company in 1853 when he was living in Darjeeling. It may therefore, be presumed that they came from eastern Nepal. The other two specimens were collected by Stevens (1925a, p. 357) from the Mai Valley, eastern Nepal, at c. 2135 m. in early April.

415. *Brachypteryx montana cruralis* (Blyth). Whitebrowed Shortwing.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 2 ♀♀ (March 8). MARKHU VALLEY : Deorali : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (April 29, May 2). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 ♂ (April 22). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♀ (April 12).

The Whitebrowed Shortwing is not easily seen due to its habit of skulking in heavy undergrowth. It occurs as a solitary bird.

Scully (1879) and Ripley (1950b) failed to find it in Nepal, but Stevens (1925a, p. 357) took specimens in the Mai Valley, eastern

Nepal, at c. 2895 m. on April 8, and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 148) reported it from central Nepal in the Nepal Valley and the dun.

All my male specimens are in female plumage. They all have the supercilium as in slaty blue specimens. The supercilium is, however, absent in my female specimens, as in Stevens's (loc. cit.) and Rand & Fleming's (loc. cit.) birds, although it is said to be present in females and is silky white (Baker, 1924, p. 18) or golden brown (Roonwal & Nath, 1949, p. 325) in colour. Stevens had already pointed out that the 'males in many cases breed . . . in the feminine phase of coloration. The white supercilium is present in males only . . .'; then he cited examples of two specimens, male and female 'both in similar plumage, female without supercilium', and stated further: 'All breeding males in female garb have supercilium as in slaty blue specimens.' With this I entirely agree. The descriptions of females given by Baker (loc. cit.), and Roonwal & Nath (loc. cit.) would, therefore, appear to be those of males in feminine plumage.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
3 ♂♂ :	68 (2), 69	42+, 45, 47.5	—, 16, 16.5
4 ♀♀ :	64, 66 (3)	43 (2), 44 (2)	15, 15.5, 16 (2)

***416. *Erithacus calliope calliope* (Pallas). Common Rubythroat.**

The Common Rubythroat was not come across by us or by Scully (1879). Proud (1949, p. 702) once observed a single example in the Nepal Valley on April 1. Ripley (1950b, p. 386) found it in the Arun Valley, eastern Nepal, at c. 365 m. in February. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 148) reported it in winter from c. 915 m. in west-central Nepal, and from c. 760 m. in eastern Nepal.

***417. *Erithacus svecicus svecicus* (Linnaeus). Redspotted Bluethroat.**

We were unable to find the Bluethroat in Nepal; neither was Ripley (1950b). It was reported from the Nepal Valley in small numbers in winter by Scully (1879, p. 305) and Proud (1955, p. 60), but the latter author found it very common on passage. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 149) found it throughout the Nepal tarai in winter.

418. *Erithacus pectoralis pectoralis* (Gould). Himalayan Rubythroat.

DUN : Bhimphedi : 1 ♀ (May 10). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 subad. ♂ (March 14). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (March 29, April 9).

The Himalayan Rubythroat is sporadically seen in central Nepal. We found it to be rather shy, keeping usually in or close to dense bushes.

It was reported in winter or spring from the Nepal Valley by

Scully (1879, p. 304), Proud (1955, p. 60) and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 148). The last-named authors found it also in western Nepal at c. 4570 m. in winter. Lowndes (1955, p. 32) recorded it from Manangbhot, central Nepal, at c. 3960-4570 m. in July-August, obviously breeding.

The breeding altitude for this bird has been given as c. 2745-4570 m. (Baker, 1924, p. 93; Ripley, 1961, p. 496). Unless my May 10 specimen from c. 1280 m. (Bhimphedi) was a late comer from the winter grounds the species perhaps occasionally breeds at elevations lower than c. 2745 m. Unfortunately, no data on the specimen's breeding or the condition of the gonad were kept.

The subadult male specimen is olive-brown on the upper side.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
2 ♂♂ :	72 ^a , 74	55 ^a , 64	18 ^a , 18.5
2 ♀♀ :	68, 70	56, 61	17, 18

^a Subadult specimen

According to Ripley (1961, p. 497) the breeding form in Nepal is the eastern subspecies, *E. p. confusus* (Hartert). However, Lowndes's specimens from central Nepal were identified by Kinnear as *pectoralis*. The breeding range of *confusus* probably starts from eastern Nepal (see next form, below).

***419. *Erithacus pectoralis confusus* (Hartert). Eastern Rubythroat.**

The only authentic record of the Eastern Rubythroat from Nepal has been made by Biswas (1960a) who found it breeding in Khumbu, eastern Nepal, at c. 4570-4875 m. in April-May.

420. *Erithacus brunneus brunneus* (Hodgson). Indian Blue Chat.

DUN : Hitaure, Bhimphedi : 4 ♂♂, 3 subad. ♂♂, 6 ♀♀ (May 3-11). MARKHU VALLEY : Deorali : 2 ♂♂, 1 subad. ♂ (April 28-30). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 5 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (April 22-27).

The Indian Blue Chat is common in central Nepal in dense forests, usually on the ground, but occasionally perching on trees also. Scully (1879) did not include it in his Nepal list. Stevens (1925a, p. 356) found it breeding in the Mai Valley, eastern Nepal, in April-May. It was reported from the Nepal Valley in March-April by Ripley (1950b, p. 386), and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 149). Proud (1955, p. 60) reported it breeding there at c. 2560 m. in summer. Smythies (1950, p. 515) also made a doubtful record from the Nepal Valley (Phulchauki Danda) at c. 2590 m. in June. Polunin (1955, p. 890) found a single example at c. 2745 m. in the Langtang Valley, central Nepal, in summer.

The subadult birds have brown primaries, and in addition, two of them have the wing coverts with rufescent tips, and one has olive-brown feathers on the posterior crown and nape.

Measurements :

	15 ♂♂	7 ♀♀
Wing :	72.5 ^a , 73 ^a , 73, 74, 75 ^a , 76 ^a , 76, 76.5, 77 (2), 78 (2), 78.5, 79, 80	71, 71.5, 72 (2),—, 73, 74
Tail :	46 ^a , 47 ^a , 47, 48 (3), 49 ^a , 50 ^a , 50 (2), 51 (2), 52 (2), 53	44, 45,—, 46 (2), 46.5, 50
Bill :	15.5 ^a , 16 ^a (3), 16 (5), 16.5 (2), 17 (2),—(2)	15.5, 16 (2), 16.5 (2), 17,—

^a Subadult specimens.

It is said to breed from c. 1525 m. upwards (Baker, 1924, p. 15; Ripley, 1961, p. 497). However, we obtained specimens between c. 455 and 1220 m. in May, but no data on the breeding of these specimens is available.

421. *Erithacus cyanurus rufilatus* (Hodgson). Redflanked Bush Robin.

CHITLANG VALLEY: Chitlang, Chandragiri above Chitlang: 1 ♂, 1 (♂), 1 juv. ♂, 2 ♀♀ (March 15-18, April 22). NEPAL VALLEY: Thankot: 9 ♀♀ (March 21—April 2).

The Redflanked Bush Robin is not uncommon during March and April on the Chandragiri, sometimes even on trees overhanging the main Kathmandu trail. It usually occurs singly or in pairs and is of rather restless disposition.

Stevens (1925a, p. 354) recorded it from the Singalila Range, eastern Nepal, at c. 3100 m. in March-April. Proud (1949, p. 703) reported it common in the Nepal Valley at c. 1525 m. upwards in winter. Ripley (1950b, p. 386) found it in winter in western and eastern Nepal. Proud (1952a, p. 363) noted it as common in pairs up to c. 3350 m. in the Gandak-Kosi watershed, central Nepal, in spring. Polunin (1955, p. 891) found it in the Langtang Valley, central Nepal, at c. 3960 m. in summer. Lowndes (1955, p. 32) reported it very common in Manangbhot, central Nepal, at c. 3050-3960 m. in summer. Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 149-150) found it in western, west-central and central Nepal, at c. 1370-2285 m. in winter and spring. Biswas (1960a) reported it preparing to breed in Khumbu, eastern Nepal, at c. 3810-4420 m. in March-May.

My juvenile male specimen appears to be a first year bird. It is in feminine garb, but the rump is blue and the upper breast slaty.

Measurements :

	1 ♂	1 (♂)	11 ♀♀
Wing :	84	81	77, 77.5, 78 (4), 79 (5)
Tail :	68	—	59 (2), 60 (3), 61 (2), 62 (2), 63, 65
Bill :	15.5	15	14, 14.5 (4), 15 (2), 15.5, 16,— (2)

An examination of fresh material from the Himalayas (Kashmir to Sikkim, including topotypes of *pallidior* Baker and *rufilatus* Hodgson) made me diffident to accept Baker's western Himalayan race *pallidior*. The alleged differences in coloration are apparent only when old western Himalayan birds are compared with comparatively recent collections from Nepal or Sikkim. The differences in size as given by Rand & Fleming (op. cit., p. 150) are not borne out in large series. Vaurie (1955b, p. 13) also came to the same conclusion as mine regarding the taxonomic status of *pallidior*. But Ripley (1961, p. 499) has recently upheld *pallidior*.

422. ***Erithacus chrysaeus chrysaeus*** (Hodgson). Golden Bush Robin.

NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (March 21-30).

The Golden Bush Robin is scarce in central Nepal. We observed it only on a few occasions up to mid-April on Chandragiri (above Thankot), always on the ground in dense bush or undergrowth.

It was not reported by Scully (1879), or by Ripley (1950b). Stevens (1925a, p. 353) found it in the Mai Valley, eastern Nepal, at c. 2135-2440 m. in early April. Smythies (1948, p. 441) reported it common above tree-line in the Gandak-Kosi watershed, central Nepal, in autumn. Proud (1949, p. 703) found it only on the Sheopuri Range in the Nepal Valley at c. 1830 m. up from November to February. Smythies (1950, p. 515) noted it in the Nepal Valley on Sheopuri and Phulchauki ranges in October. Polunin (1955, p. 891) observed it occasionally at c. 3505 and 4420 m. in the Langtang Valley, central Nepal, in summer. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 149) found it in west-central and central Nepal (Nepal Valley) at c. 1405 and 1675 m. in winter. Biswas (1960a) recorded it preparing to breed at c. 4625 m. in Khumbu, eastern Nepal, in late April and early May.

A male specimen (March 23) has the central rectrices in moult.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
2 ♂♂ :	65, 66	53, —	15, 15.5
1 ♀ :	65.5	54	15

*423. ***Erithacus indicus indicus*** (Vieillot). Whitebrowed Bush Robin.

Neither Scully (1879) nor we found this bush robin in Nepal. Proud (1949, p. 703) reported it as a scarce bird of the Nepal Valley on Nagar Jong in December-January. It was also recorded from eastern Nepal by Stevens (1925a, p. 354) in the Mai Valley, at c. 2440-2745 m. in March; by Ripley (1950b, p. 386) in the Arun Valley at c. 2745 m. in winter; by Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 150)

at c. 3050 m. also in winter; and by Biswas (1960a) in Khumbu at c. 4265 m. in April-May.

*424. *Erithacus hyperythrus* (Blyth). Rufousbellied Bush Robin.

It appears that Hodgson's collection (Gray, 1863, p. 34), probably from eastern Nepal, and Stevens's (1925a, p. 354) single example from the Singalila Range, eastern Nepal, at c. 3595 m. taken on March 2, form the only records of the occurrence of the Rufousbellied Bush Robin in Nepal.

425. *Copsychus saularis saularis* (Linnaeus). Indian Magpie-Robin.

TARAI : Simra : 2 ♂♂ (March 4, 5). DUN : Hitaura, Kusumtar, Bhimphed : 2 ♂♂, 1 nestling ♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 nestling ♀ (March 14, May 14, 26, June 2). NEPAL VALLEY : Kathmandu, Thankot : 8 ♂♂, 2 (♂♂), 5 ♀♀ (March 21—April 14).

The Magpie-Robin is one of the commonest birds about human habitation in central Nepal, especially in the Nepal Valley. In the dun it did not appear to be as common.

Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 150) reported it also from western, west-central and eastern Nepal, up to c. 1405 m. in winter. Biswas (1960a) found it from the Nepal Valley east to the Singalila Range up to c. 1525 m. between January and July.

In the third week of March it was singing merrily and was starting its love-play. March and April birds had enlarged gonads.

Measurements :

	7 ♂♂	2 ♀♀
Wing :	101 (2), 101 ^a , 102 ^a , 103 (2), 106	93, 95
Tail :	92, 92 ^a (2), 94 (3), 95	79, 82
Bill :	22, 22 ^a , 22.5, 23,— ^a , —(2)	21.5, 22

^a Unsexed but (♂♂)

426. *Copsychus malabaricus indicus* (Baker). Indian Shama.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♀ (March 6). DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂ (May 27).

The Shama does not appear to be at all common in central Nepal. It was observed by us only a few times in the forests of the bhabar and the dun. However, Ripley (1950b, p. 388) found it to be common in the tarai forests of central Nepal, while Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 151) recorded it from the western, west-central and eastern tarai where they noted it as common. Scully (1879) did not include it in his Nepal list.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
1 ♂ :	96	147	21
1 ♀ :	90	118	19.5

***427. *Phoenicurus erythronotus* (Eversmann).** Eversmann's Redstart.

The sole record of the occurrence of Eversmann's Redstart in Nepal is based on a single specimen taken at Jomosom (c. 2800 m.), Kali Gandak Valley, west-central Nepal, in December by Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 151).

***428. *Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus* (Vigors).** Blueheaded Redstart.

After Hodgson's collection, Stevens's (1925a, p. 355) collection from the Singalila Range, eastern Nepal, at c. 3505 m., and Rand & Fleming's (1957, p. 151) from western to eastern Nepal, form the only records of the Blueheaded Redstart from that country.

429. *Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris* (Vieillot). Eastern Black Redstart.

NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♀ (April 9).

The Eastern Black Redstart appeared to be rare indeed in Nepal, the above-mentioned specimen being the only one seen by us there.

Neither Scully (1879) nor Ripley (1950b) found it in Nepal. Proud (1949, p. 702; 1955, p. 60) observed very few in the Nepal Valley on passage in spring. In northern central Nepal it was reported in summer by Polunin (1955, p. 891) from c. 3350-4420 m. in the Langtang Valley, and by Lowndes (1955, p. 31) from c. 3655 m. in Manangbhot. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 152) found it in the eastern Nepal tarai in winter.

Measurements : 1 ♀ : Wing 89 ; tail 65 ; bill 16.5.

430. *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* (Horsfield & Moore). Hodgson's Redstart.

DUN : Bhimphedi : 1 ♀ (March 13). NEPAL VALLEY : Kathmandu, Thankot : 6 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, 1 ♀ (March 24—April 10).

Hodgson's Redstart is common in central Nepal, especially in the Valley where during March and the first half of April we found it on boulders in streams, on bushes about streams passing through forests and sometimes even in cultivated fields. It is, however, not so common in the dun.

Ripley (1950b) did not record it from Nepal. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 152) reported it also from west-central Nepal at c. 915-2805 m. in winter.

All my birds had non-breeding gonads.

Colours of soft parts : Iris dark brown ; bill very dark horny to black, sometimes with yellowish on gape ; legs, feet and claws very dark horny to black ; pads grey, sometimes with a yellowish tinge.

Measurements :

	6 ♂♂	9 ♀♀
Wing :	84, 85 (3), 86, 87	81 (3), 82 (2), 82.5, 83 ^a , 84, 85
Tail :	68, 68+, 69 (3), 71	63, 65 (2), 66 ^a , 66 (2), 67, 68(2)
Bill :	16 (2), 16.5, 17 (3)	15.5 ^a , 16 (2), 16.5(5), 17

^a Unsexed but (♀)

Baker (1924, p. 74) has given the measurements of tail and tarsus in this species as '66 to 68' and 'about 26', respectively. I measure them in 81 examples from all over its range as:

39 ♂♂ :	Tail	66—72 (av. 69.5),	tarsus	22—25 (av. 23.5)
42 ♀♀ :	„	62—71 (av. 66.5),	„	22—24 (av. 23.1)

431. *Phoenicurus frontalis* Vigors. Bluefronted Redstart.

DUN : Bhimphedi : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (March 13, 14). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 ♀ (April 20). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (March 22-27).

The Bluefronted Redstart appeared to be a fairly common bird of central Nepal during March-April. It was usually seen perched on bushes in forests or open areas and on rocks, sometimes far away from water.

Ripley (1950b, p. 386) found it in eastern Nepal above c. 2440 m. in winter. In northern central Nepal, it was reported by Proud (1952a, p. 363) in the Gandak-Kosi watershed up to c. 3350 m. in spring, by Polunin (1955, p. 891) in the Langtang Valley at c. 3350 m. in summer, and by Lowndes (1955, p. 31) in Manangbhot at c. 3505-4570 m. in summer. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 152) found it in west-central, central and eastern Nepal between c. 1370 and 2895 m. in winter. Biswas (1960a) observed it in central and eastern Nepal (Nepal Valley, Chautara, Ramechhap and Okhaldhunga districts) between c. 1220 and 2440 m. in late January and early February, and between c. 3050 and 5335 m. in Khumbu during mid-February to May.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
4 ♂♂ :	86, 88, 90, 93	67, 71, 72, 76	15.5, 16 (2),—
3 ♀♀ :	82 (2), 86	64, 66, 68	15, 16 (2)

*432. *Phoenicurus schisticeps schisticeps* (J. E. & G. R. Gray). Whitethroated Redstart.

The Whitethroated Redstart was not found in Nepal either by Scully (1879) or by us. Ripley (1950b, p. 386) reported it from eastern Nepal at c. 2745 m. in winter; Lowndes (1955, p. 32) from Manangbhot, central Nepal, at c. 3050-3960 m. in summer; Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 152-153) from west-central and eastern Nepal at c. 2745-3050 m.

in winter; and Biswas (1960a) from Khumbu, eastern Nepal, at c. 3810-4875 m. in March-May.

***433. *Phoenicurus erythrogaster grandis* (Gould). Güldenstädt's Redstart.**

Rand & Fleming's (1957, p. 153) single specimen taken in the Kali Gandak Valley, west-central Nepal, at c. 2805 m. in winter, appears to be the only post-Hodgsonian record of the occurrence of Güldenstädt's Redstart in Nepal.

434. *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* Vigors. Whitecapped Redstart.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♀ (March 8). NEPAL LLEY : Thankot : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (March 23, April 12).

During March-April we found the Whitecapped Redstart to be rather uncommon. It may be presumed that the majority of them must have already left by then for their breeding grounds.

From previous reports (Scully, 1879, p. 304; Smythies, 1948, p. 441; Proud, 1949, p. 702; Ripley, 1950b, p. 387; Polunin, 1955, p. 891; Lowndes, 1955, p. 32; Rand & Fleming, 1957, pp. 153-154; Biswas, 1960a) this species occurs in Nepal from west to east at c. 275-2590 m. in winter and spring, but higher up, up to c. 5335 m., in summer.

The forecrown is moulting in both my female specimens taken on March 8 and 23, the latter having nearly finished its moult.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
1 ♂ :	94	77	18.5
2 ♀♀ :	87+, 90	70 (2)	19 (2)

435. *Phoenicurus fuliginosus fuliginosus* Vigors. Plumbeous Redstart.

DUN : Bhimphedi : 1 ♂ (May 8). MARKHU VALLEY : Kulikhani : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (April 28). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 ♀ (March 15). NEPAL VALLEY : Burhanilkantha : 1 ♂ (April 30).

The Plumbeous Redstart is not uncommon in central Nepal during March-April, but appears to be scarce in May. It is found wherever rapids and boulders occur in hill streams.

In northern central Nepal, Smythies (1948, p. 441) found a single example at c. 2440 m. in autumn; Polunin (1955, p. 891) occasionally observed it in the Langtang Valley at c. 3050-3655 m. in summer; and Lowndes (1955, p. 32) found it up to c. 4420 m. in Manangbhot in summer. In west-central Nepal, it was reported only by Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 154) from the tarai up to c. 2440 m. in winter. In eastern Nepal, Ripley (1950b, p. 387) observed it in the Arun Valley

between c. 305 and 1525 m. in winter, and Biswas (1960a) recorded it breeding at c. 3050 m. in Khumbu in May.

A male specimen taken April 30 had the testes but a little swollen, measuring R: 4.5×3 , L: 5×3 mm.

Colours of soft parts : Iris brown ; bill black ; legs and feet dark horny ; claws black ; pads white.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
4 ♂♂ :	73.5, 76, 77, 78	50, 51, 54, 57	14, 15.5, 16, —,
2 ♀♀ :	68, 71	48, 50	14.5 (2)

436. **Hodgsonius phoenicuroides phoenicuroides** (J. E. & G. R. Gray).

Hodgson's Shortwing or Whitebellied Redstart.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♀ (March 6). DUN : Bhimphedi : 1 ♂, 1 subad. ♂, 1 imm. ♂ (May 5-7). MARKHU VALLEY : Deorali : 2 imm. ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (April 29-May 1). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 imm. ♂ (April 20). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 imm. ♂ (April 2).

This shortwing was occasionally observed by us in central Nepal. It appeared shy and always preferred dense bushes.

After Hodgson's collection, it was recorded only in the northern central Nepal in summer by Polunin (1955, p. 890) who found it occasionally at c. 3350 and 3960 m. in the Langtang Valley, and by Lowndes (1955, p. 31) who came across it at c. 2440 m. (once) and c. 3050-4420 m. in Manangbhot.

The subadult male specimen (May 5) is in olive plumage, the feathers of the nape and upper back having blue centres; upper tail coverts freshly grown and with rufous tips, chestnut on tail prominent; otherwise worn.

The immature males (April 2–May 5) are also in olive plumage with traces of chestnut on lateral tail feathers, the one of May 5 being olive-brown with still reduced chestnut on rectrices. Those taken between April 20 and May 5 are moulting on the crown, chin and throat.

The female taken on May 1 has the feathers of the forehead tipped blue.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
2 ♂♂ :	72 ^a , 74	77, 79 ^a	18.5, 19 ^a
3 ♀♀ :	69, 71, 71.5	76, 77, 78	18, 18.5 (2)

^aSubadult

437. **Cinclidium leucurum** (Hodgson). Whitetailed Blue Robin.

CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 5 ♂♂ (April 18-23). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 3 ♂♂ (April 7, 8).

The Whitetailed Blue Robin was found in small numbers by us

only on the Chandragiri, both on Thankot and on Chitlang sides, in the forests near hill streams.

Scully (1879) did not record it from Nepal. Proud (1955, p. 60) found it breeding on Nagar Jong, Nepal Valley, at c. 2440 m. Stevens (1925a, p. 355) observed it in the Mai Valley, eastern Nepal, at c. 2440 m. in April.

It is curious that all the specimens collected by Ripley (1950b, p. 386) from Chitlang, and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 154) from the Nepal Valley, are, like ours, males.

Measurements : 8 ♂♂ : Wing 94, 96, 96.5, 97(2), 98, —, 100 ; tail —, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85 ; bill 18, 19(4), 19.5, — (2).

***438. *Cinclidium frontale frontale* Blyth. Bluefronted Callene.**

The only Nepali record of the Bluefronted Callene is based on Hodgson's collection (Horsfield & Moore, 1854, p. 396; Gray, 1863, p. 35; Sharpe, 1883, p. 15).

***439. *Grandala coelicolor* Hodgson. Hodgson's Grandala.**

The post-Hodgsonian reports of the grandala from Nepal consist of two sight records, viz. Smythies's (1948, p. 441) from the Gandak-Kosi watershed, central Nepal, at c. 4570 m. in autumn, and Biswas's (1960a) from Khumbu, eastern Nepal, at c. 3655-3960 m. in mid-February.

***440. *Enicurus scouleri scouleri* Vigors. Little Forktail.**

The Little Forktail was not found in Nepal by us or by Ripley (1950b). It was reported from central Nepal by Scully (1879, p. 311) in the Nepal Valley and Nawakot district; Smythies (1948, p. 441) observed a single specimen on Tadi Khola at c. 3655 m. in autumn; Proud (1949, p. 702) noted a few in the Nepal Valley in winter; and Polunin (1955, p. 890) reported it from the Langtang Valley at c. 2745-3350 m. in summer. In west-central Nepal, Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 154) found it in the Kali-Gandak Valley at c. 915 and 1525 m. in winter. Biswas (1960a) recorded it on Khimti Khola, Ramechhāp district, eastern Nepal, at c. 1830 m. in winter.

441. *Enicurus immaculatus* (Hodgson). Blackbacked Forktail.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂, 2 subad. ♀♀ (March 8, 9). DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂, 1 subad. ♂, 1 nestling (May 14, 29).

The Blackbacked Forktail was found by us in small numbers in central Nepal on streams between c. 305 and 610 m.

Scully (1879) did not record it in Nepal. Ripley (1950b, p. 386) found it from c. 305 to 1220 m. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 154) reported it from west-central and eastern Nepal at c. 275-915 m. in winter.

While the adult male specimen of March 8 is in fresh plumage, the subadult female taken on the same day, has brown primaries and worn wing and tail, but fresh body plumage. Another subadult female collected on the next day has brown primaries, is otherwise in fresh plumage. Its crown and back are, however, brownish. The adult male taken on May 29 is very worn, as also the subadult male of the same day. This last example has brown primaries.

The nestling (May 14) has no white on forecrown, is sooty black on the upper side, has the wing patch, rump and upper tail coverts white. Its underside is downy white with traces of brownish spots on the breast and flanks.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
3 ♂♂ :	93, 93 ^a , 96	— ^a , —, 124	20 ^a , 20, 20.5
2 ♀♀ :	89 ^a , 90 ^a	— ^a , 117 ^a	20 ^a (2)

^a Subadult

***442. *Enicurus schistaceus* (Hodgson). Slatybacked Forktail.**

Neither Ripley (1950b) nor we found the Slatybacked Forktail in Nepal. Scully (1879, p. 311) noted it as a resident bird of the Nepal Valley where Proud (1949, p. 702) also found it. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 155) reported it from west-central Nepal at c. 915 m. in winter.

443. *Enicurus maculatus maculatus* (Vigors). Western Spotted Forktail.

DUN : Hitaura : 1 juv. ♂ (May 20). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 3 ♂♂, 1 subad. ♂, 3 ♀♀, 2 subad. ♀♀ (March 22—April 8).

The Western Spotted Forktail is not uncommon in the Nepal Valley during March-April. It occurs on the streams flowing down the hills round the Valley. We observed it also on the smaller streams in the forests of the dun.

Scully (1879, pp. 310-311) reported it from the Nepal Valley down to the dun. Proud (1949, p. 702) observed it in the Valley. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 155) found it from western to central Nepal between c. 290 and 2285 m. in winter. Biswas (1960a) reported it from Chautara district, central Nepal, at c. 1830 m. in winter.

The subadult specimens are birds of the year, having brown primaries. The juvenile specimen is unspotted but with brown primaries.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
4 ♂♂ :	108, 109 ^a , 110, 111	146(2), 148, 150 ^a	24 ^a , 24, 24.5, 25
5 ♀♀ :	99+ ^a , 101 ^a , 102, 103(2)	129(2), 134, 135 ^a , 139 ^a	22.5 ^a , 23 ^a , 23(2), 24

^a Subadult

As with Scully's (loc. cit.) and Rand & Fleming's (loc. cit.), my birds are also somewhat variable in regard to the amount of black and white. This variability prompted Scully to identify part of his collection as representing the eastern form *guttatus*. However, all those specimens had white crescents on the lower back, a characteristic of *maculatus*¹.

***444. *Enicurus maculatus guttatus* Gould. Eastern Spotted Forktail.**

There appears to be only a single record of the Eastern Spotted Forktail from Nepal, that is, Stevens's (1924b, p. 68) from the extreme eastern Nepal in the Mai Valley at c. 2195 m. and lower.

445. *Cochoa purpurea* Hodgson. Purple Thrush.

DUN : Bhimphedi : 1 ♂ (May 10).

The only specimen of the Purple Thrush encountered by us in Nepal was in the dense forest east of Bhimphedi. It appeared very shy and was skulking in dense undergrowth. I believe, this is the first specimen of the species taken in Nepal since Hodgson's time. Ripley (1950b, p. 386) probably saw it at Bhimphedi, and Smythies (1950, p. 515) observed it once on Sheopuri Ridge, Nepal Valley, at c. 2135 m.

Measurements : 1 ♂ : Wing 142 ; tail 105 ; bill 24.

***446. *Cochoa viridis* Hodgson. Green Thrush.**

The Green Thrush is known from Nepal only through Hodgson's original specimens (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 96).

***447. *Saxicola insignis* J. E. & G. R. Gray. Hodgson's Bush Chat.**

The only report of the occurrence of Hodgson's Bush Chat in Nepal is due to Hodgson's collection (Hodgson, 1844, p. 83; Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 71).

***448. *Saxicola torquata maura* (Pallas). Siberian Stone Chat.**

The Siberian Stone Chat was not found by us. It has not been specifically mentioned in any Nepal list, but there are specimens of

¹ Vaurie (1959a, p. 419) states that *maculatus* 'grades into *guttatus* in central Nepal.'

this subspecies in the British Museum from Nepal (ex Bailey collection). It is a winter visitor to Nepal and is so similar to the resident form (*indica*) in winter plumage as to be easily confused. It is quite likely that some of the winter records of *indica* refer to *maura*. Ripley (1961, p. 513) has included Nepal within the range of this form.

449. *Saxicola torquata indica* (Blyth)¹. Indian Stone Chat.

DUN : Hitaura, Bhimphedi : 1 ♂, 1 juv. ♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 juv. ♀ (March 11, 12, May 7, June 21). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (March 15, April 19, 23). NEPAL VALLEY : Kathmandu, Godavari, Thankot : 9 ♂♂, 1 (♂), 4 ♀♀, 1 (♀) (March 23—April 12, May 10).

The Indian Stone Chat is common in central Nepal from the Valley down to the dun, singly or in pairs, in open country, cultivated land, scrub or rocky areas.

Ripley (1950b, p. 387) reported it from eastern Nepal. Po'ulun (1955, p. 890) found a single example in the Langtang Valley, central Nepal, at c. 4265 m. in summer. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 156) recorded it from western to eastern Nepal.

The two juvenile specimens from Hitaura (June 21) are spotted, the male having in addition, the wing patch developed.

Some of my March and April birds were breeding, the earliest I have is dated March 12. A female was laying on March 23. The gonads of some March-April examples were in different stages of development.

Measurements :

	13 ♂♂	8 ♀♀
Wing :	64(2), 64 ^a , 65(2), 65.5, 66.5, 67(3), 67.5, 68, 68.5	62, 64, 64.5, 65, 65.5, 66, 69 ^a (2)
Tail :	46, 47(2), 48(5), 48.5, 49(2), 49.5, 53 ^a	44, 45, 45.5, 46.5, 47, 48.5, 49 ^a , 50 ^a
Bill :	14(4), 14.5 ^a , 14.5(5), 15(3)	14(2), 14.5(2), 15(2), 15 ^a , 15.5 ^a

^a Sexed from plumage

450. *Saxicola torquata przewalskii* (Pleske). Turkestan Stone Chat.

DUN : Bhimphedi : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (March 11, 12). NEPAL VALLEY : Kathmandu, Thankot : 3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (March 20, 29—April 11).

This stone chat is not uncommon in the Nepal Valley and the upper dun in open areas during spring. Like *maura*, this form is also a winter visitor to Nepal.

¹ The type locality of this form was originally given as 'India' by Blyth (1847, p. 129). Baker (1921b, p. 709) restricted it first to Kashmir, and later (1924, p. 28) to Calcutta. The latter seems more reasonable because the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal had specimens from the vicinity of Calcutta, but not from Kashmir, prior to 1847.

Scully (1879, pp. 300-301) rightly suspected that some of his specimens from the Nepal Valley (November to March) entered under *indica* were different from that form. Those specimens are in fact *przewalskii*. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 156) found it in western, west-central and eastern Nepal.

Some of my specimens are wearing off to the summer plumage.

All my specimens had non-breeding gonads.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
5 ♂♂ :	71, 73(2), 74, 75	53, 54, 55, 56, 57,	16, 16.5(2), 17
4 ♀♀ :	71, 71.5(2), 72	51, 53(2), 54	16(2), 16.5, 17.5

***451. *Saxicola leucura* (Blyth). Whitetailed Stone Chat.**

The sole record of the occurrence of the Whitetailed Stone Chat in Nepal is due to Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 156) who reported a single example from the western tarai in January.

452. *Saxicola caprata bicolor* Sykes. Indian Pied Bush Chat.

DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (May 27).

The Pied Bush Chat is not particularly common in central Nepal. Examples were seen by us from time to time in the dun in open areas such as cultivated fields about villages.

Scully (1879) did not find this species in Nepal. Ripley (1950b, p. 387) obtained specimens in the tarai of western Nepal only; Smythies (1950, p. 515) found it on Sheopuri Range, Nepal Valley; Polunin (1955, p. 890) reported it from the Langtang Valley, central Nepal, at c. 2135 m. in summer; and Proud (1955, p. 60) found only several examples on Sheopuri Range, Nepal Valley, and noted it to be common on the new road west of the Valley at c. 915 m. or lower. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 157), however, recorded it in western, west-central and eastern Nepal between c. 275 and 1405 m. in winter.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
1 ♂ :	66+	50	15
1 ♀ :	68.5	50	15.5

453. *Saxicola ferrea ferrea* J. E. & G. R. Gray. Dark Grey Bush Chat.

MARKHU VALLEY : Deorali : 3 ♀♀ (April 29—May 1). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 6 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (April 18—24). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot, Crest of Chandra-giri : 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (April 8—16).

The Dark Grey Bush Chat is common in the Nepal and Chitlang valleys in opener parts and about fringes of forests, on shrubs and lower branches of trees. It occurs singly, or in pairs or small parties.

In central Nepal, it was reported from the Nepal Valley by Scully (1879, p. 302), Proud (1949, p. 702; 1955, pp. 60-61), Smythies (1950, p. 515) and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 157); from the Gandak-Kosi watershed at c. 3350 m. in autumn by Smythies (1948, p. 440); from Rapti Valley (Chisapani), Mahabharat Range, by Ripley (1950b, p. 387); from the Langtang Valley at c. 2745-3350 m. in summer by Polunin (1955, p. 890); from Manangbhot at c. 1830 m. in summer by Lowndes (1955, p. 31); and from Chautara district at c. 1830 m. in January by Biswas (1960a). Rand & Fleming (loc. cit.) recorded it also from western and west-central Nepal at c. 275-1405 m. in winter, and Biswas (loc. cit.) from eastern Nepal at c. 1525 m. in February and at c. 3050 m. towards the end of May.

It was breeding in April. Two females taken on April 15 and 16 had ovaries measuring 5.5×4 (with large granular ova) and 9.25×4.75 mm. (with 2.5 and 2 mm. ova), respectively.

Colours of soft parts : Iris dark brown ; bill, legs, feet and claws black ; pads grey.

Measurements :

	7 ♂♂	7 ♀♀
Wing :	67(3), 68, 69(3)	64.5, —(2), 66, 67(2), 68
Tail :	60, 61, 62(2), 64(2), 65	60, 62, 63(3), 64, 65
Bill :	15(2), 15.5(2), 16(2), —	15(3), 15.5(2), 16(2)

Kinnear (1934, p. 357), Stresemann (1940, p. 225), Mayr (1941, p. 220) and Ripley (1961, p. 516) suggested synonymizing the eastern subspecies *haringtoni* Hartert with the nominate subspecies, but Vaurie (1955b, p. 26) upheld them as separate races.

***454. *Saxicoloides fulicata cambaiensis* (Latham). Brownbacked Northern Indian Robin.**

The post-Hodgsonian records of the Brownbacked Northern Indian Robin from Nepal have been provided by Ripley (1950b, p. 387) from the tarai (? western and/or central), and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 157) from the western, west-central and eastern tarai.

[*Saxicoloides fulicata erythrura* (Lesson). Brownbacked Eastern Indian Robin.

Ripley (1950b, p. 387; 1961, p. 521) suggested that the birds from the eastern Nepal tarai might be *erythrura* which occurs in Bihar and West Bengal.]

455. *Monticola cinclorhynchus* (Vigors). Blueheaded Rock Thrush.

DUN : Bhimphedi : 1 ♀ (May 5). MARKHU VALLEY : Deorali, Kulikhani : 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 juv. ♀ (April 28, 29, July 2). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 2 ♀♀ (April 13, 14).

The Blueheaded Rock Thrush is not a common bird of central Nepal. Examples were observed by us singly in dense bush or undergrowth in forests.

It is interesting to note that like ours all the previous post-Hodgsonian Nepali records of this species are from central Nepal, namely Nepal Valley (Scully, 1879, p. 283; Proud, 1949, p. 704, and 1955, p. 61; Ripley, 1950b, p. 389; Rand & Fleming, 1957, p. 158); Langtang Valley (Polunin, 1955, p. 891), and the dun (Ripley, loc. cit.).

My juvenile specimen is in spotted plumage.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
1 ♂ :	105	70	24.5
4 ♀♀ :	97, 97.5, 99, 101	65, 66(2), 66.5	24, 24.5(2), 26

Several recent authors (Meise, 1934, p. 43; Meinertzhagen, 1951, p. 456; Ripley, 1952, p. 36; Biswas, 1953, p. 47; Rand & Fleming, 1957, p. 158) considered this form as a subspecies of *Monticola gularis* (Swinhoe, 1862). However, I prefer to follow Vaurie (1955b, pp. 23-24) in treating them as separate species. Furthermore, even if they are considered conspecific, Vigors's name *cinclorhynchus* being older must be used as the specific name.

456. **Monticola rufiventris** (Jardine & Selby). Chestnutbellied Rock Thrush.

DUN : Bhimphe : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (March 12, 14). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang, Chandragiri above Chitlang : 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀ (April 17-26). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot, Crest of Chandragiri : 2 ♂♂, 2 subad. ♂♂, 1 ♀ (April 1-14).

This rock thrush is not uncommon in central Nepal in open parts or edges of forests where there are dense bushes, especially on Sheopuri Lekh, Phulchauki Danda, Chandragiri (both sides) and the Mahabharat Range.

Stevens (1925a, p. 361) reported it from the Mai Valley, eastern Nepal, breeding at c. 2135 m. upwards. In the Gandak-Kosi watershed, central Nepal, it was found at c. 3350 m. in autumn by Smythies (1948, p. 441) and at c. 2440 m. in spring by Proud (1952a, p. 363). Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 158) recorded it for west-central Nepal at c. 1405 m. in winter.

The two subadult specimens of mine are in worn plumage.

The species was breeding in April. A female taken on April 9 had a much enlarged ovary with the largest ovum measuring 3 mm. A male shot on April 14 had well-developed testes (R: 6×5, L: 8×4.5 mm.), and another female collected on April 21 had a 4.5×5.5 mm. ovary with large granular ova.

Colours of soft parts : Iris dark brown ; bill black but sometimes with greyish on the base of lower mandible ; legs, feet and claws very dark horny to black ; pads grey or yellowish grey.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
4 ♂♂ :	121.5+, 124, 126.5, 129	100(2), 101.5, 105	27(2), 27.5, 28
5 ♀♀ :	117, 118, 122(3)	96, 98+, 99, 100(2)	26, 27(3), 27.5

Meinertzhagen (1951, p. 457) followed by Biswas (1953, p. 47) placed this species as a race of *Monticola solitarius* (Linnaeus). They are, however, sympatric in a wide belt on the Himalayas, and indeed should be treated as distinct species.

***457. *Monticola solitarius pandoo* (Sykes). Indian Blue Rock Thrush.**

We were not lucky enough to find this rock thrush in Nepal. Scully (1879, p. 282) noted it as a winter visitor to the Nepal Valley occurring in small numbers from October to early March. Ripley (1950b, p. 389) reported it from the tarai in winter. Lowndes (1955, p. 32) recorded it as a rare bird in Manangbhot, central Nepal, at c. 3655 m. in summer. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 158) found it as an uncommon bird in the Kali Gandak Valley, west-central Nepal, in November.

458. *Myiophoneus¹ caeruleus temminckii* Vigors. Himalayan Whistling Thrush.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (March 7, 8). DUN : Hitaura, Bhimphedi : 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 subad. ♀ (May 10-31, June 10). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 ♂ (March 18). NEPAL VALLEY : Burhanilkantha, Godavari, Thankot : 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (March 26, May 4-11).

The Whistling Thrush is a common bird of central Nepal on rivers and streams in or adjacent to forests, from the bhabar to the Nepal Valley.

It was recorded from western and west-central Nepal by Ripley (1950b, p. 390) and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 159); from northern central Nepal by Proud (1952a, p. 364) in the Gandak-Kosi watershed up to c. 3505 m. in spring, by Polunin (1955, p. 891) in the Langtang Valley at c. 2745-4265 m. in summer, and by Lowndes (1955, p. 32) in Manangbhot up to c. 3655 m. in summer; from eastern Nepal by Stevens (1925a, p. 362) in the Mechi Valley at c. 2745 m. in February, and by Biswas (1960a) in the Dudh Kosi Valley at c. 1830 m. in early February and in Khumbu between c. 3050 and 5180 m. in March-May.

¹ Vaurie (1959a, p. 415) has reverted back to the spelling *Myophonus*. It is true that on the explanation of pl. 170 of Temminck & Laugier's *Planches color.*, livr. 29 (1822) the generic name is spelt as *Myophonus*, but two pages preceding it, where the genus is described, it is spelt as *Myiophoneus*.

The male specimen from Chitlang (March 18) lacks the white tips of the median wing coverts.

The subadult female specimen from Hitaura (June 10), which had fully breeding ovary (with ova as large as 3–5 mm.), is somewhat duller in general coloration, the glistening spots are duller and smaller, and the white tips of the median wing coverts dull white. It is, moreover, smaller in size.

Birds taken in March had the gonads just commencing to enlarge, while those of May were more or less in breeding condition.

Colours of soft parts : Iris dark brown ; upper mandible dusky yellow (yellow in the subadult specimen) with blackish on base and culmen, and dark horny tip ; lower mandible yellow ; legs, feet and claws black, pads yellowish grey.

Measurements :

	6 ♂♂	6 ♀♀
Wing :	167+, 169, 173, 175(2), 184	160, 162, 164, 165, 167, 168+
Tail :	129, —(2), 136, 138, 140	120(2), 121, —, 123, 127
Bill :	33, 33.5, 35(2), 36(2)	33(2), 34(2), 35(2)

The tail length 116–122 as given by Baker (1924, p. 180) is much too small. Delacour (1942, p. 256) has given it up to 141, with which I agree.

459. *Zoothera wardii* (Blyth). Pied Ground Thrush.

CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 subad. ♂ (April 25).

The above-mentioned specimen of the Pied Ground Thrush was the only example of the species observed by us in Nepal, and this incidentally appears to be the only post-Hodgsonian record from that country.

The specimen appears to be a first-year bird. Some feathers of its nape, mantle, lower back and rump are olive brown; primaries brown, median wing coverts tipped rufous, and there are a few black bars on the white of lower breast.

Measurements : 1 subad. ♂ : Wing 113 ; tail 76 ; bill 26.5.

460. *Zoothera citrina citrina* (Latham). Orangeheaded Ground Thrush.

DUN : Hitaura, Bhimphedi : 6 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (May 3-17, June 18, 21). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 3 ♂♂, 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀, 1 ♀ (March 22–April 8).

The Orangeheaded Ground Thrush is common in central Nepal in dense undergrowths and bushes, usually feeding on the ground.

It was reported from the Nepal Valley only in summer by Scully (1879, p. 283) and Proud (1949, p. 703). Although Ripley (1950b, p. 389) did not find it in the tarai in winter, Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 159) reported it to be fairly common there in December and February.

March birds are in quite fresh plumage. A few of my May specimens and both the June ones are very worn.

It was breeding in May.

Colours of soft parts : Iris dark brown ; bill very dark horny to black sometimes with greyish on gape, base and sides of lower mandible ; legs fleshy with brownish front or light horny brown with yellowish behind ; feet fleshy to light horny brown ; claws fleshy to horny ; pads fleshy or yellowish fleshy.

Measurements :

	10 ♂♂	5 ♀♀
Wing :	116+, 118, 118+, —(2), 119(2), 120(2), 121	117(2), 120, 121+, 123
Tail :	75, 76, 78, 79, 80(2), 82(3), 83	76, 78, 79(2), 81
Bill :	23, 23.5(2), 24(6), 25	23, —, 24, 24.5, 25

Baker (1924, p. 149) has given 67-69 mm. as the tail length in the male, which is, however, much too small. Fifty-two specimens measure as follows:

37 ♂♂ :	72-83 (av. 76.5) (once 68)	15 ♀♀ :	72-81 (av. 75.9) (once 69.5)
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461. *Zoothera mollissima mollissima* (Blyth). Eastern Plainbacked Mountain Thrush.

NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♀ (April 6).

The above-mentioned specimen was the only example of the Plainbacked Mountain Thrush observed by us in central Nepal. It was found in dense forest on the Chandragiri Range above Thankot at about 1830 m.

Neither Scully (1879) nor Ripley (1950b) noticed it in Nepal. Stevens (1925a, p. 362) reported it from the Mai Valley, eastern Nepal, at c. 2135-2240 m. in March-April. Smythies (1950, p. 515) saw it (or ? *Z. dauma*) only once on Sheopuri, Nepal Valley. Proud (1955, p. 61) found it common in the Nepal Valley at c. 2440 m. (occasionally at c. 1525 m.) in winter. Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 159-160) obtained a single example on the Phulchauki Danda, Nepal Valley, at c. 1890 m. in February. Biswas (1960a) found it in Khumbu, eastern Nepal, at c. 3655 m. in April.

Measurements : 1 ♀ : Wing 134; tail 90; bill 26.

The size of the tail, 100-130 mm., as given by Baker (1924, p. 163) is indeed much too large for this species. Vaurie (1955a, pp. 2-3) has, however, given correct measurements of specimens studied by him.

As Vaurie (op. cit., p. 7) has pointed out, the specimen under report is indeterminate as to subspecies. However, since Rand & Fleming (loc. cit.) found that Kumaon, Nepal and Sikkim (virtually

topotypical *mollissima*) birds are inseparable, I am listing my specimen under the nominate race. I agree with Vaurie (op. cit., p. 6) that *simlaensis* Baker is best treated as a synonym of *whiteheadi* Baker (see also Ripley, 1961, p. 528).

***462. *Zoothera dixonii* (Seebohm). Longtailed Plainbacked Mountain Thrush.**

Geokichla dixonii Seebohm, 1881, Catal. Birds Brit. Mus. 5 : 161. (Himalayas; lists specimens from Nepal and Darjiling; type locality hereby restricted to Darjeeling subdivision, West Bengal.)

This mountain Thrush was not found by us or by Scully (1879) in Nepal. Smythies (1948, p. 441) observed it in the Gandak-Kosi watershed, central Nepal, at c. 3505 m. in autumn. Ripley (1950b, p. 389) obtained a single example in the Arun Valley, eastern Nepal, at c. 2745 m. in February. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 160) reported a single specimen from the Nepal Valley at c. 1675 m. in January.

463. *Zoothera dauma dauma* (Latham). Smallbilled Mountain Thrush.

Turdus dauma Latham, 1790, Index Orn. 1 : 362. (India = Kashmir, according to Baker, 1921b, p. 720.)

BHABAR: Amlekhganj: 1 ♂, 1 unsexed (March 9, 10). DUN: Bhimphedi: 1 ♀ (May 4). MARKHU VALLEY: Deorali: 2 ♀♀ (April 28, 30). CHITLANG VALLEY: Chitlang: 2 ♂♂ (April 17, 19). NEPAL VALLEY: Thankot, Crest of Chandragiri: 6 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 unsexed (March 22—April 16).

The Smallbilled Mountain Thrush is common in central Nepal usually in dense forests or grassy clearings in or near forests. In the bhabar it was not found by us as common in March, the majority having evidently left for the breeding ground. On the hills around the Nepal Valley, on the Chitlang side of the Chandragiri, and on the Mahabharat Range (both on the southern and northern sides), it was frequently seen from about the middle of March, usually in pairs.

Scully (1879, p. 286) noted it to be rare in the Nepal Valley occurring 'probably only' on passage. Smythies (1950, p. 515) saw it (or ? *Z. mollissima*) only once on Sheopuri Range, Nepal Valley. Proud (1952a, p. 363) found a single example in the Gandak-Kosi watershed, central Nepal, at c. 2590 m. in March. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 160) reported it common in the lowlands of western, west-central and eastern Nepal in winter, and recorded a specimen from the Nepal Valley at c. 1675 m. in January.

Specimens taken in mid-April had the gonads already enlarged to some extent.

Colours of soft parts: Iris very dark brown; upper mandible horny black; lower mandible pale brownish yellow on base, whitish on the middle, gradually turning horny anteriorly until the tip is horny black; legs and feet pale horny brown; claws pale horny, much paler on the tips; pads yellowish white.

Measurements :

	9 ♂♂	5 ♀♀	2 unsexed
Wing :	142, 142+, 143, 144, 145, 147(2), 147.5, 148	138, 139, 141.5, 143(2)	143, 144
Tail :	95, 98, 101, 102, 104, 105(2), 106, 107	97, 98, 100, 102, —	103, 105
Bill :	27.5, 28(3), 29, 29.5, —(2), 31.	28, 28.5, 29(2), —	28, 30

464. *Zoothera monticola monticola* (Vigors). Large Brown Thrush.

Zoothera monticola Vigors, 1830-31 (1832), *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* (1) : 172. (Himalayas=Sikkim, according to Baker, 1921b, p. 721.)

NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♂ (April 5).

The Large Brown Thrush is apparently very rare in Nepal. The only specimen that we came across was collected in dense undergrowth of the forest at Thankot.

Scully (1879) and Ripley (1950b) did not record it from Nepal, but Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 160-161) reported a single specimen from western Nepal at c. 305 m. in January.

Measurements : 1 ♂ : Wing 145; tail 85+; bill 44.

465. *Zoothera marginata* Blyth. Lesser Brown Thrush.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♀ (March 8). DUN : Bhimphedi : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (May 5, 10).

This thrush appeared rare indeed in central Nepal. It was observed by us only on a few occasions in dense undergrowths in the forests of the bhabar in spring and the upper dun in summer. The species has recently been recorded for the first time from Nepal by Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 161) who obtained a single example from the western part of the country at c. 290 m. in January.

My male specimen (May 5) is moulting on the crown, but its wings are worn.

Measurements : 2 ♀♀ : Wing 126, 129; tail 76, 78; bill 34,—.

[Scully's (1879, p. 284) record of the Blackbreasted Thrush, *Turdus dissimilis* Blyth, from the Nepal Valley, was probably due to misidentification of his specimen. No such example was received from Scully at the British Museum (Seebohm, 1881, p. 266) or the Indian Museum, nor has the species ever been known from west of Assam and lower East Pakistan.]

466. *Turdus unicolor* Tickell. Tickell's Thrush.

CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 5 ♂♂, 2 subad. ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (April 18-25).

Tickell's Thrush is occasionally found in the Nepal, Chitlang and Markhu valleys from about the end of March. It usually occurs on the edges of forests in pairs or in small feeding parties.

Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 161) reported it also from west-central Nepal at c. 1430 m. in November.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
5 ♂♂ :	124 (4), 128	86, 87, 88, 90 (2)	23 (3), 23.5,—
3 ♀♀ :	119+, 120 (2)	—, 84, 85	23, 23.5, 24

467. ***Turdus albocinctus*** Royle. Whitecollared Blackbird.

CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 ♀ (March 15). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot 1 ♀ (March 22).

The Whitecollared Blackbird occurs singly on moss-covered branches of trees on Chandragiri both above Thankot and above Chitlang from c. 1525 to 2135 m., and on the Phulchauki Danda above Godavari. It does not appear to be common.

It was reported as a winter visitor to the Nepal Valley (Scully, 1879, p. 286), leaving early in April (Proud, 1955, p. 61). Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 161) found it also in eastern Nepal at c. 3050 m. in winter. Ripley (1950b) failed to notice it in Nepal.

My Thankot specimen is somewhat lighter coloured both above and below.

Measurements : 2 ♀♀ : Wing 137, 140 ; tail 108, 111 ; bill 29, 30.

468. ***Turdus bouboul*** (Latham). Greywinged Blackbird.

TARAI : Simra : 2 ♀♀ (March 5). MARKHU VALLEY : Deorali : 1 ♂ (May 3). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (April 16-20). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot, Crest of Chandragiri : 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (April 4-18).

The Greywinged Blackbird is common in the forests of central Nepal above the dun from April onwards. In the dun and tarai only a few examples were observed by us in early March.

In western and west-central Nepal, Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 161-162) reported it from c. 275 m. up to 1980 m. in winter. In northern central Nepal, Proud (1952a, p. 363) noted it as common up to c. 2745 m. in the Gandak-Kosi watershed during spring. In eastern Nepal, Stevens (1925a, pp. 359-360) recorded it from the Mai Valley up to c. 2745 m. in March-April, and Biswas (1960a) found it around 2745 m. in the Hongu Valley in June.

Of the two specimens taken on March 5, one is in very fresh plumage, while the other is worn all over. Two specimens taken April 16 and 20 are in fresh plumage, the one of April 16 has, however, slightly worn body feathers. The remaining four birds taken between April 13 and 20 are in more or less worn plumage. The May 3 bird has fresh wings and worn body plumage.

A female taken on April 17 was laying, and a male of April 18 had breeding testes.

Colours of soft parts: Iris brown; eyelids lemon yellow; bill orange with dark horny on the tip of upper mandible; legs, feet and claws brownish yellow, pads yellow.

Measurements:

	Wing	Tail	Bill
6 ♂♂:	141 (2), 142, 143+, 144, 148	110+, 111+, 114, 116 (2), 116+	27 (3), 27.5, 28,—
4 ♀♀:	136, 138, 142, 148	100+, 110, 111 (2)	25.5, 26.5 (2), 28

469. *Turdus rubrocanus rubrocanus* J. E. & G. R. Gray. Western Grey-headed Thrush.

Turdus rubrocanus J. E. & G. R. Gray, 1846, Catal. spec. drawings Mam. Birds Nepal Thibet pres. Hodgson, p. 81 (Nepal), *nomen nudum*, but validated by Copenhagen Decision 115 (2).

DUN: Bhimphedi: 1 ♂ (March 12). NEPAL VALLEY: Tankot: 1 ♂ (March 28).

The Greyheaded Thrush is quite uncommon in central Nepal. We observed it only on a few occasions when it occurred singly in dense forests.

Scully (1879, p. 286) did not come across it. Ripley (1950b, p. 389) recorded it by sight only in eastern Nepal. Proud (1955, p. 61) reported it as very uncommon in the Nepal Valley, but common on hills north of Pokhara, west-central Nepal. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 162) secured a single example in the Nepal Valley (Nagar Jong, ♀, February).

My specimen from Bhimphedi is worn.

Measurements: 2 ♂♂: Wing 138, 138+; tail 106+, 107; bill 28, 29.

Baker (1924, p. 133) mentions a specimen also of the eastern race *T. r. gouldiae* (Verreaux) from Nepal in the British Museum.

*470. *Turdus obscurus* Gmelin. Dark Thrush.

The only Nepali record of the Dark Thrush is based on a single skin in the Hodgson Collection, not listed by Gray & Gray (1846) or Gray (1863), but reported by Stevens (1925a, p. 360).

471. *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis* Jarocki. Blackthroated Thrush.

TARAI: Simra: 1 ♀ (March 6). CHITLANG VALLEY: Chitlang: 1 ♂ (April 17). NEPAL VALLEY: Kathmandu, Thankot: 3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, 1 unsexed (March 20—April 2).

The Blackthroated Thrush is quite common in central Nepal during March-April. It occurs in pairs or flocks of varying sizes, three to twenty or so, about cultivation, grasslands, edges of forests, etc.

Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 162) reported it also from west-central and eastern Nepal at c. 915-3810 m. in winter. Biswas (1960a) found it in Khumbu, eastern Nepal, at c. 3960 m. in March.

One of my male specimens taken April 17 is somewhat worn.

The gonads of this specimen had just started swelling. Two female birds (March 23 and 27) had finely granular ovaries.

Colours of soft parts : Iris dark brown ; upper mandible dark horny with yellow on gape and sides ; lower mandible yellow with dark horny tip ; legs yellowish or brownish grey with dusky front ; feet yellowish grey to horny brown ; claws horny or dark horny : pads white.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
4 ♂♂ :	131, 133, 134, 137	95 (2), 96, 100	24, —(2), 25
4 ♀♀ :	129, 131 (2), 134	—, 95, 96, 97	22.5, 23.5, 24, 24.5
1 unsexed :	130	96	23

*472. ***Turdus naumanni eunomus*** Temminck. Dusky Thrush.

The only post-Hodgsonian report of the Dusky Thrush from Nepal is due to Proud (1949, p. 703) who found it in the Nepal Valley on Nagar Jong at c. 1525 m. in winter and spring.

*473. ***Turdus viscivorus bonapartei*** Cabanis. Himalayan Missel Thrush.

The only record of the occurrence of the Himalayan Missel Thrush in Nepal appears to be based on the single skin in the British Museum *ex* Hodgson collection (Seebohm, 1881, p. 196).

(To be continued)